

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSC-05 DHA-02 /046 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE: CWSCHMIDT

APPROVED BY EUR/EE: CWSCHMIDT

S/PRS: FZBROWN

-----132232Z 028902 /62

O P 132225Z FEB 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, CZ

SUBJECT:STATEMENT TO PRESS ON HOFMANN DETENTION

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT ON HOFMANN INCIDENT WHICH DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN NEW YORK TIMES ON AFTERNOON FEB 13 IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM TIMES FOR COMMENT. WE UNDERSTAND TIMES WILL DRAW ON STATEMENT, AS WELL AS HOFMANN STORY FILED FROM VIENNA, IN ITS REPORTING TO APPEAR IN FEBRUARY 14 EDITIONS. DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO MAKE TEXT AVAILABLE TO OTHER MEMBERS OF PRESS FEB 14. ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO DRAW ON THIS GUIDANCE AS NEEDED.

2. BEGIN TEXT: OUR EMBASSY FIRST LEARNED ABOUT THE INCIDENT SHORTLY AFTER 11 PM (PRAGUE TIME), SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12. WE WERE IN CLOSE AND CONSTANT TOUCH WITH OUR EMBASSY, AND OUR AMBASSADOR AND HIS STAFF MADE REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO  
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OBTAIN ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN OFFICE. ONLY SOME TIME AFTER 2 PM SUNDAY (PRAGUE TIME) WAS THE EMBASSY INFORMED THAT MR. HOFMANN WAS NOT BEING DETAINED AND WAS NO LONGER IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE DEPARTMENT REGARDS THIS AS UNACCEPTABLE TREATMENT OF A JOURNALIST ENGAGED IN THE LEGITIMATE PURSUIT OF HIS PROFESSIONAL DUTIES. WE ARE PARTICULARLY

CONCERNED BECAUSE THIS IS THE SECOND RECENT INCIDENT  
OF THIS KIND; LESLIE COLLITT, AN NBC CORRESPONDENT, WAS  
TREATED IN A SIMILAR MANNER WHEN HE WAS DEPARTING  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ON  
FEBRUARY 3. END TEXT.

DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT

VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DETENTION, CITIZEN PROTECTION, PRESS RELEASES, JOURNALISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 13-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE032777  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** CWSCHMIDT  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770051-0608  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** f2076ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3333497  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STATEMENT TO PRESS ON HOFMANN DETENTION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, SHUM, CZ, US, (HOFFMAN, PAUL)  
**To:** PRAGUE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f2076ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009